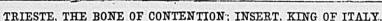
## The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

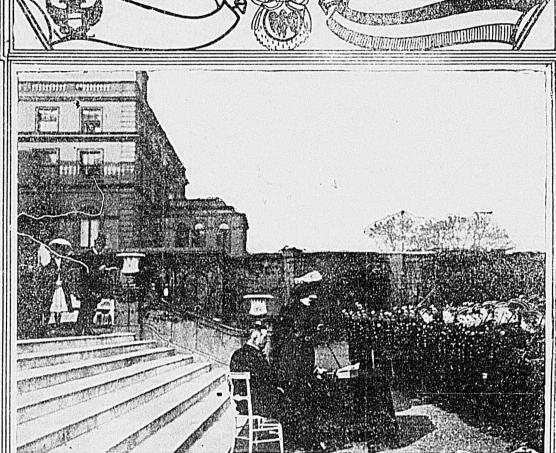






ARBITER OF WAR OR PEACE.

VERGE OF WAR?



DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND ADDRESSING MESSENGER BOYS.

## King George Enacts Role of | ARE AUSTRIA AND ITALY ON THE | Personal Charities of Domestic "Oiled Feather"

ONDON, Dec. 15 .- What with publie and domestic affairs King George, who, after a flying visit to town, has gone to York cothis modest country house near Sandringham, has been of late as busy a man as anyone in the kingdom. With decided political views of his own, which for obvious reasons he has to keep severely to himself, he has been following the course of electioneering nolities with some anxiety, because if come back from the polls with their hands in any way strengthened there is no reason to believe that they will be burdened by any constitutional scruples against dragging the crown into the political mess.

So far King George has kept a very stiff upper lip, but in the event of the return of the Radicals the question of "guarantees," which undentably helped to worry King Edward into his grave, will have to be fairly and squarely ave to be fairly and squarely No one who knows the king per-doubts that he will be quite equal to keeping his end up, for a man who has in his time commanded a torsert of person to be rattled by politi-cians. A lady who has known King George well for several years told me recently that the trait which impressed her most in the king's character was, without any trace of cleverness or bril liancy, his sound, imperturbable com-mon sense. And common sense is just the commodity we can do with at the present juncture.

STRAINED RELATIONSHIPS.

His domestic problems have in the eanwhile been no less troublesome Queen Mary and the queen mother have always been on more critical than cor-dial terms, and since Queen Mary seems inclined to assert her position as queen consort their relationships have become those of strained politeness. The new queen undoubtedly lacks the charm of personality and manner which endeare Queen Alexandra to the nation, and en sured her popularity in general society. Herself a woman of the most flawless virtues both as a wife and mother, there are such a number of things and per sons Queen Mary "disapproves" of, that her personal circle is bound to become restricted, and the new American won en, among them Lady Lister Kaye and Mrs. David Beatty, who rank among her personal friends, have, since the king's accession, found her manner formal, not to say frigid. Of many ladies in the late king's intimate circle, dis-tinguished for their smartness and vi-vacity, rather than by their observance of the conventions, she disapproves. Lady Paget, for example, ever since she gave some French plays or a Sunday afternoon when she was en-Sunday afternoon when she was en-rtaining King Edward at Kingstor Hill, is said to be in her bad books. Her George, who inherits a good dear father's geniality, feel none too comfort father geniality father gen able, and the probabilities are that Anglo-American society will find the court a good deal duller and more for-mal than it used to be in the Edwardian

ROYAL STANDARDS GALORE.

In the meantime, Queen Alexandra In the meantime, Queen Alexandra has shown no disposition for a graceful retirement to the shelf as queen mother, a designation for which she has no liking. This was made clear quite early by the battle of the standards. The royal standard over Buckingham palace was not lowered while the king and his consort were in residence in Martherough bouse signals. dence in Marlborough house simply occause Queen Alexandra personally insisted on keeping it flying. This is the only explanation for the unprepedented spectacle of two royal standards flying simultaneously over two buildings. The king only compromised the outculty by giving the queen mothed an official standard of her own quartering the royal arms of Denmark. Now I hear a rumor that Queen Mary will also have a standard of her own as queen consort, which she will fly when the king is absent.

More recently, while Queen Mary was arranging her suite of apartments and the royal nurseries at Buckingham palace, Queen Alexandra until the very day she left the palace for Sandring ham last week, refused to allow a single one of her personal possessions to be removed to Marlborough house, consequently Queen Mary straight from Windsor to York cottage

King George alone has been able to play the part of the oiled feather, and even his diplomacy has been pretty severely taxed. If it be true, as is generally believed in society, that Queen Alexandra intends to spend a Queen Alexandra intends to spend a good deal of time in town, and to entertain with all appropriate state, his troubles, with the prospect of two courts running, as it were, side by side, and with more than a suspicion of riyalry between the royal ladies, are by no means over. These rumors tend to indicate that the American woman, who aspires to court society over here, may for the future have to walk very delicately amid any number of subtle pitfalls.

Undaunted by these or any other considerations, it seems that Mrs. William B. Leeds means to make a bid as an American hostess of prominence under Lady Paget's auspices during the coronation season. Things were shaping very well for her during the past season, when she was getting nearer and nearer to King Edward's personal circle, for she was one of the very few new Americans in town who received an invitation to Lady Farquhar's royal ball on Derby night. Though the business has been protracted and difficult she has actually secured the lease of Undaunted by these or any other conshe has actually secured the lease of Mrs. George Keppel's house in Grosve-nor street, but she must have had to pay pretty handsomely for it, for, unpay pretty handsomely for it, for, un-til the other day, a multi-millionaire from the Argentines was said to be bidding against her. Mrs. Leeds, how-ever, never allows money to stand in her way when she means business. Her most recent purchase has been a single string of flawless, perfectly matched pearls of unrivaled sheen, the price of pearls of unrivaled sheen, the pr which was, so I hear, \$350,000.

In spite of the fact that electioneer ing fever is running very high just now, there has been a certain amount of quiet Anglo-American entertaining. though nothing on a big scale. J. Astor has been giving some dinner-partes by way of a house-warming in the new mansion she has taken in Portman Square. One night last week her guests included the duchess of Marlborough, Mrs. George Cornwallis West, who is full of her new play, which either has been or is going to be produced in New York; Mrs. John Leslie, and several English friends. Most of the ladies were in black, but the hostess herself looked very handsome in rose pink under a heavily embroidered tunic, and her tall young son, who is over on one of his periodical visits to his mother, helped her to Portman Square. One night last week visits to his mother, helped her to visits to his mother, neighbor after to receive her guests. After dinner there was a small dance of about 20 couples. The duchess of Marlborough has been continuing her succession of luncheon parties at Sunderland house in honor of Mrs. Tiffany, but I hear that little Lord Ivor Churchill's health has oc-casioned her a great deal of anxiety again. However, before she leaves for he Riviera, and the Riviera, and closes Sunaerano house, it is her intention to give one big ball to be preceded probably by a big dinner party. In the meantime she has also been busy making up Christ-mas parcels for her many protegees. The duke, too, has of late become very philanthronically inclined, but his e orts to distribute gifts to his Blenhein

dependents without feminine super-vision, have been almost pathetically comic in their inappropriateness. FORTUNES FOR DAUGHTERS. The duchess of Roxburghe has returned to town, and is at her new town residence. Chesterfield house, but the dinner parties she was expecting to give have been canceled, because she has been placed in mourning for the death of her grandfather, Mr. Wilson. Both Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt and Mrs. Ogden Goelet, the duchess' moth or, arrived in time to see him before the end, and I hear he has left his im-mense fortune to be divided in equal shares among his daughters. Mrs. Hamilton McCormick has also hars, riamiton according has a several "at homes," which have been well attended, for she herself is very popular. Mr. McCormick is becoming a collector, and has an immense collection of old masters and prints in his house, some of which prints in his house, some of which are undoubtedly good. They contemplated going to Egypt for the winter, but the other day they bought a brand new motor-car with the patent anti-collision buffers, so that now a motor tour on their letter true is on the target.

their latest toy is on the tapis.

LADY MARY.

MRS. LEEDS' BID. jewelry, in any case, is superb, and she knows how to dress to perfection. QUIET ENTERTAINMENTS.

closes Sunderland

Austrian and Italian statesmen want

Troublesome Problem of "Italia Irredenta" Driving Statesmen of Both Countries Into a Frantic Race of Armaments Which Can Only be Directed Against One Foe-Armies Training Within Sight of Each Other.

(Special Correspondence.) IENNA, Dec. 13.-Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Este, backed by the energetic Field Marshal Krobatin (who will probably soon be minister of war) is planning a complete re-organization of the Austro-Hungarian army. The service-term will be shortened from three to two years; the annual recruit contingent will be raised to 195,000; and as a voted the necessary money, but there is little doubt that they will. And behind these preparations come four Dreadnoughts, two already under way at the Trieste Stabilimento Tecnico. portents. Most portentous of all is the magnetic, aggressive figure of Foreign Minister Aehrenthal, who stands behind these martial preparations, the unbeaten intriguer who lately made M. Izvolsky, Sir Edward Grey, and all the other sucklings of diplomacy look so microscopically small. And everywhere Austria is drilling, mustering, shooting at targets, and dragging siege guns to the tops of toppling mountain peaks. It is a sudden resurrection of a once decadent state, a sudden return to the height of power which Austria occupied in the mid-nineteenth century when she humiliated Prussia at Olmutz.

FIGHT MAY BE RENEWED.

Against whom are the martial prep trations made? The answer is reached by a process of elimination. Not against Russia. Russia, in the view of the central European powers, is crippled for two decades. What Austria and Germany think of the power of Nicholas II was sufficiently shown by the contemptuous ultimatum sent in March, 1909, at a time when the fooling of the incapable Izvolsky with Servia threat ened an outbreak of war. Similarly Austria is not arming against Turkey for Turkey if not already in the triple alliance is very near it; and after the brief dispute over Bosnia, it has become the settled policy of Austria and Germany to back Turkey up. With one European power alone has Austria a solid and serious di pute. That power is her ally, Italy. Statesmen put a pleasant face on Austro-Italian relations. The two peoples know better There Hes between them the source of unceasing irritation, the bone of contention known as "Italia Irredenta," that is, "Unredeemed Italy," composed of the great Italian-speaking provinces which still obey, and obey with loathing and disgust, the sway of the German Hapsburgs. It is an old quarrel which runs throughout Europe's history, the quarrel between Latin and Goth, between Guelph and Ghibelline between the artistic Romance races and the German "Tedeschi" barbarians And now it seems that the immemorial fight is to be renewed, and fought at last perhaps to a really decisive end.

AUSTRO-ITALIAN LOVE.

no war. Both are driven to arm by historical forces which are infinitely stronger than their good intentions. To conceal this disagreeable fact, they parade the touching comedy of Austro-Italian love and affection, as partners in the triple alliance. Thus marquis di San Giuliano, Italy's foreign min-

ister, last September called on Count Aehrenthal at Salzburg, and were gushingly received by Kaiser Franz Josef at Ischl. After a month's delay, Count was mildly admitted, there had been friction. Austria had thought of marching to Salonica, and Italy of aims impracticable; and Italy and Austria, therefore, have no further cause for quarrels. So say the diplo-But while these reassuring statements are flying around, comes Irredenta," proves to be ten-fold stronger than any official explanations and today everyone understands that Austro-Italian relations are worse than they have been since the struggle of Italian patriots are not afraid to

push their claim. They want a greater Italy. Their country's real frontier, they affirm, is the main chain of the Alps, marked by the St. Gothard Pass in Switzerland, and by the Brenner Pass in the Austrian Tyrol. The Brenner separates North from South Tyrol; and as South Tyrol has a large German population the Italian claim goes somewhat too far. But the part farthest from the Brenner is purely Italian; and even includes the two old Venetian cities of Trient and Riva. Italia Irredenta. The more important part is the East Adriatic coast (including Austria's chief port Trieste), Styria, the Hungarian coast of Croatia with Flume, and all Dalmatia as far as Albania. On Albania Italy has no racial claim, but until lately she had 'interests," that is ambitions, there, which during the last two years the energetic Young Turks have made short work of. The East Adriatic population is mainly Slav, and not Italian. But Italians run the towns and people the coast; they represent the only civilization that exists; and

that is the basis of Italy's claim.

PREPARING FOR A CLASH. As preparation for the coming war, Italy is vigorously propagandizing in the Irredenta provinces. She does this through the "Society of Dante Alighieri," a tremendously powerful organization which works hand in hand with the Austro-Italian "Lega nazionale italiana." Both societies com-The choice of Dante's name for such a purpose of course makes th historian stare, for Dante was a steadfast Ghibelline and a supporter of the power of the German kaisers in Italy and indeed in his "Purgatorio," he de-picts the city of Rome as weeping for

Dante Alighieri society has 251 local groups and 32,000 members, who groups and 32,000 members, who carry on a strong propaganda, and vigorously prepare the Austro-Italians for the happy day when some new Garibaldi will bring them back triumpoint of view of Italy the movem point of view of Italy the movement is quite legitimate. But it inevitably means tension and irritation with Austria; and just now it is expressed in continual frontier troubles, and in feverish preparations for war.

WAR IN THE AIR. I have just returned from a prolong-

ed tour of the frontier between the Lake of Garda and Montaggio, Part of the frontier runs through the fantas-tie and magnificent Dolomite mountie and magnificent Dolomite mountains and past the overpowering, rose-flushed peaks of Cadore, whose beautles are so sweetly sung by Italy's poet, Carducci. I found war everywhere in the air. The severest regulations are taken with regard to foreigners near the fortifications; and fresh fortifications are being made wherever the roads are not already sufficiently guarded, Even where as at Misvrina a tiny tongue of Italian territory is wedged into Austria, Austria has built a new fort. On one side of the frontier Austrian "Jaeger" soldiers, on the other side, Italian "Bersaglier" practise night and day amid the Ilmestone peaks. Near Misvrina I witnessstone peaks. Near Misvrina I witnessed Austrian artillerists dragging an enormous 6 inch siege-gun to the top of the Durrenstein, an almost precipitous mountain some 2,000 feet high. Both states are improving their fortifications around Riva on the lake of Garda; and new regulations against ordering and new regulations against photographing or even using field-glasses are posted everywhere. The conditions on Garda Lake make Austria extremely nervous, All but a few miles of the coast (on which, however, lies Riva) are Italian; andnight these boats cruise about the lake, casting a menacing glare on the frontier around Lake Garda is badly marked. Night practices go on unceasingly, with the result that the soldiers of the two powers continually trespass over the frontiers, and arrests and even fights take place every day. The local newspapers Lately the two governments took steps to put an end to these troubles; but the racial enmity is much too in-tense to be suppressed by official in-

RISKY UNDERTAKING.

Whether Italy can fight Austria is The combatants will be sin-When fully mobilized she can put into the field 900,000 men, excellent-ly trained; and 1,430,000 Landwehr, Landsturm, and supplementary re-serves. The latter two forces are mostly available only for defense against an invader. Italy's fully mobilized force runs to 780,000 men; with a second line of defense about as strong as Austria's. On paper the Italian fleet is the stronger. It counts 11 hattleships atloat and four building. Two of the battleships are over 21 years old and may be left out of account. Italy has nine armored cruisers. Austria's fleet consists of 10 battleships affoat and two building, all of pre-Dreadnought type; and there are two Dreadnoughts under construction, and two more planned. Experts cast doubt on the efficiency of Italy's armed forces; with many, Austrian superiority is a dogma, inherited from the ignoian fleet is the stronger. minious Italian defeats by Austria on sults. Italy's one great asset is her homogeneous population; but she can also count on help from the Austrian Italians; and there is always a chance that race dissension might make military successes by Austria fruitless. The war for Italy is none the less a risky gamble, which may lead to dis-

That will not prevent the war breaking out. That at least is Vienna's be-lief; and that is why the Vienna cabinet wants to arm regardless of ex-pense. The only question is when the complete her Dreadnoughts and to strengthen her army, Italy's interest is rather to hasten the issue. That being so, no man can say that a frontier-disso, no man can say that a frontier-alspute or some question of the treatment of Italians in Austria, will not soon drive the government of Rome to make the perilous plunge, WALDEMAR PRICE.

## England's "Idle Rich"

ONDON, Dec. 15.-There are few among the women of the British aristocracy who have not some pet charity to which they devote a considerable portion of their time and energy-not merely by means of directions given to secretaries and the signing of checks, but by actual employpeers in wealth in America, though this is not necessarily either to the British woman's credit, or the American's distent a relic of the old feudal times. when every holder of land was obliged to produce a certain number of men to fight for his overlord when required, fight for his overlord when required, so it behooved him to look after his people. Again, in America there are no "poor" in the sense that we have them here, and consequently no need for "charity" as it exists in England.

Foremost among the English "Lady Bountifuls" stands the queen, who recently put in five hours' hard work for two days at the Imperial institute unpacking, sorting and putting out on

two days at the imperial matture un-packing, sorting and putting out on tables many thousands of winter gar-ments for the poor. This was in con-nection with the London needlework gild, a branch of a charity with which she has been connected nearly all her life. Her mother, the late duchess of Teck, was the president of the Surrey needlework gild, and always attended the annual distribution of the year's work herself. The members of the needlework gilds give an undertaking to provide not less than two new gar-ments every year, and just before the winter begins the garments are collected in one place, sorted and allotted to the various poor parishes near by. late duchess always had some the year round, and the queen follows her example.

ROYAL SUPERVISOR.

The unpacking of every crate, parcel or bundle with which the floor of one of the galleries of the imperial institute vas littered was supervised personally in some of the garments, and made suggestions as to the better display of suggestions as to the better display of others; she stopped only in the middle of the day for lunch, which was served in a neighboring room to save time. And all this within a week of the bereavement caused by the loss of her favorite brother. Prince Frances of favorite brother, Prince Frances of Teck; but it was a standing engage-ment in the cause of charity so she did not dream of putting it off. In connec-tion with this it may be mentioned that she has caused it to be known that she does not wish any charitable func-tions to be postponed on account of her brother's death. Her example and that of her dead

brother have been followed also within the last few days by her youngest brother, Prince Alexander of Tock. Early in the year, Prince Francis of Teck took upon himself the onerous task of freeing the Middlesex hospital, of which he was the chairman, from its enormous ally many hundreds of letters cleared off the debt-amounting to \$100. 000, and then started to establish an en-dowment fund of \$35,000 a year, which would keep the hospital out of difficulties in the future, but in the middle his task he died. Now his brother Prince Alexander, has become chairman of the hospital and has taken the work on his shoulders, and the king and the endowment fund. The work entails a daily visit to the hospital where the prince is engaged many hours in corre-spondence, besides a meeting of the board of governors once a week. The first time he was present in his c tion to the children, his sympathy for them doubtless aroused by the thought of his own bonny bairns at hor also of the little one whom he lest this summer.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL

During the South African war, the duchess of Argyll, who is the king's aunt, turned the Ferry Inn on her husband's estate at Rosneath in Scotland into a cottage hospital for wounded soldiers, and were that there are no woundhas become a convalescent home for those recovering from se vere illnesses. Her royal highness takes a keen interest in this home, is respon-sible for its upkeep, and never falls

to pay several visits there when she is staying at Rosnenth,
Among British peeresses, none is better known for her charitable works than Consuelo Vanderbilt, the duchess of Marlborough. Before her separation from her husband, the people on their estate at Blenhelm were her special care, no misfortune of any sort going unnoticed among them, while at Christmas firme the most generous largesses was scattered in the humof London, and it is the merged tenth" who enlist her a thics. She is a warm supporter church army, but it is "The F Endsleigh street that is her pet of the whole the mirror tenth army. prison are cared for while the bread-winners are serving their sentence, some of the women doing the house-work, and others being provided with work of various kinds. She also keeps work of various kinds. She also keeps a fund going for providing the children of the very poor with shoes, and many a time she has spent several hours fitting shoes on to celd little feet that have known only an apolegy for footgear up till that moment. At Christmas time she provides 200 peor families with dinners, and a generous check is always forthcoming at this season for providing coals and clothing in many more poor homes.

ARISTOCRATIC SALESWOMAN.

In an estate covering 1,176,343 acres a Scotland and some 30,000 to 40,000 in England-the size of the duke of Sutherland's possessions—it might be ex-pected that the duchess would castly find opportunities for the exercise of charity if she felt so inclined, and it is an opportunity of which she takes full bleak, barren north, where the inhab-ltants find it extremely difficult to scratch a living out of the stubborn soil. So her grace set about discover-ing what she could do to help them. She found that a rough but serviceable tweed was made by the wives of the crofters—as the peasants in that part f Scotland are called-and she became a vigorous drummer for this cloth. Fairs and bazaars were held in her beautiful London home where the home-mado tweeds were on show, and in one year 65,000 yards of it were sold through he agency. Not so very long ago she took advantage of a visit which she paid with the duchess of Marlborough to Russia to create a market for her crof-ters' wares there. She took with her specimens of the cloth, hired rooms both In St. Petersburg and Moscow, spread out the cloth, and invited all the tallors in the town to come and inspect them.

CHAMPION OF POTTERS.

Another part of the Sutherland estate s situated in the potteriese district, and here she finds many opportunities of selping the workers, for the lead glaze used in the manufacture of nearly all pottery works havoc with many lives, and the "maim and the halt" are many. The discoveries she made in going round the district appalled her and she made up her mind that the state should do something for the workers. By inessant efforts, she persuaded the ever tardy British government to go into the question of lead-poisoning and eventually measures were passed with reference to the manufacture of pottery that have permanently alleviated the condition of the workers. She also founded the Potteries Cripples' guild, where handicrafts are taught to those who are unable to follow other trades, and the exquisite work done by her cripples in wood-carving, beaten copper and brass, artificial flowers, etc., is known from one end of England to the

other.

In spite of all these demands on her sympathy, she still has a little corner left in her heart for the district messenger boys of London, and she fre-quently presides at their annual prize distribution, which often takes place at Stafford House, her husband's beautiful

town residence. FIGHT ON TUBERCULOSIS

No account of philanthropic women of "high society" is complete without mention of the countess of Aberdeen, wife of the lord lieutenant of Ireland, who is so well known for her strenu-ous efforts to fight consumption among the poor. Soon after her husband be-came viceroy of Ireland she founded the Women's National Health association and all the work carried on by it is organized by her. Caravans are fitted out and sent round the country with

(Continued on page "ete"